(d) whether Government are also aware that there is only one other train, namely Kerala Express passing through Palghat which will be unable to cope with the heavy rush especially during summer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. It has been decided to divert 2617/2618 Mangale Express via Konkan Railway route in order to reduce the running time to Mangalore and to provide an additional daily train between Ernakulam/Alwaye/Trichur and Delhi.

(c) For the convenience of Palghat passengers, the reservation quota is being increased in Kerala Express for Palghat to the extent possible.

(d) Apart from 2625/2626 Kerala Express, following weekly trains are also available from Palghat to Delhi.

(i) 6343/6344 Ernakulam-Nizamuddin Express.

(ii) 6317/6318 Kanniyakumari-Jammu Tawi Himsagar Express.

(iii) 6687/6688 Mangalore-Jammu Tawi Navyug Express.

Shatabdi trains incurring losses

2738. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several shatabdi trains are incurring losses;

(b) if so, the details of Shatabdi trains running losses and the factors responsible therefor;

(c) whther the CAG has recently pointed out that the cost analysis of most of the Shatabdi trains has not worked out by Government; and

(d) if so, the fact thereof and the steps taken to discontiune the Shatabdi trains incurring losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) The train-wise cost analysis is not done on the Railways.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The comptroller and Auditor General, in his report, has pointed out that out of the 14 Shatabdi Express Trains running on the Indian Railways, 4 trains running between Chennai-Mysore, Chennai-Coimbatore, Howrah-Rourkela and Howrah-Bokaro are incurring losses. Discontinuing these Shatabdi trains are not considered at present as the occupancy of these trains is expected to go up in the course of time.

Shortage of staff in reservation office in Southern Railway at Chennai

2739. SHRI N. THALAVAI SUNDARAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that there is a shortage of staff in the emergency quota office in Southern Railway at Chennai;

(b) whether it is a fact that in Madurai and Chennai where even the letters are given to release the Emergency Quota by MP's and these are not released; and

(c) what action has been taken by the Southern Railway?

TEH MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The requests received from the Members of Parliament for release of berths/seats out of emergency Quota for their own journeys and in favour of their family members are mostly honured. Requests of Members of Parliament for allotting berths/seats from Emergency Quota for journey of others are considered on merit alongwith other requests taking into account factors like status of passengers travelling, nature of urgency like traveling on Government duty, bereavement in the family, sickness, etc. Since a large number of requests are received from various quarters, it is not feasible to accommodate all such requests.